



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

www.laccod.org



MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

John B. Troost
2nd Vice President

Bernard Siegel
Treasurer

Mary Chambers
Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
Harley D. Rubenstein
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal at 1:15 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: 1st Vice President Neal, Treasurer Siegel, Commissioners Steve Thompson for Wan Chun Chang, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Donna Pomerantz, Alexia Teran, John Troost and Wendy Welt. President Kecia Weller, 2nd Vice President Harley Rubenstein, Commissioners Mary Chambers, Sheila Wright and Michael Gureckas were not present.

ELECTION FOR VACANT POSITION – 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

By a majority vote of the quorum, Commissioner John B. Troost was elected to the office of 2nd Vice President for 2008-2009 Term.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2008-2009 Term

Mr. Patrick Ogawa, Chief Deputy Executive Officer of the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, officiated the oath of office for the 2008-2009 Term for the following newly elected officers:

- Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice Chair
- John B. Troost, 2nd Vice President
- Bernard Siegel, Treasurer.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS for 2008-2009 Term (Cont.)

1st Vice President Neal presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Commissioner Harley D. Rubenstein for his term as 2nd Vice President for 2007-08.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Treasurer Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Welt, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of June 18, 2008 were approved with the following corrections:

Under the REPORT OF ANTHONY GORDON, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr. Kurt Hagen, Deputy Compliance Officer, provided an update on the Transition and Self-Evaluation Plans Project and reported the following:

- Preparation of the Transition and Self-Evaluation Plan Project Reports for the first 15 Departments is in progress.
- Reports show that there have been a significant number of barriers that have been mitigated.

. . .

1st Vice President Neal suggested that the ramp that will be placed at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration from the plaza area to the second floor be named after former Commissioner Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr., honoring him for all the contributions he made to the disability community.

Commissioner Pomerantz inquired about the Transition Plans for the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (KHHA), and asked if the signage for the KHHA was being evaluated as well as the restriping of the stairs throughout the KHHA. Mr. Hagen agreed to inquire and bring back the information to Commissioner Pomerantz at the next Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Block reported on SB60 that would qualify undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers' licenses. She encouraged the Commission and meeting attendees to contact their respective assemblyperson to oppose SB60. She further added that she brought the "*Jamiel's Law Petition*" to the meeting seeking endorsement signatures. No written correspondence was submitted.

Joan Taylor, Ed.D. Director for Senior Opportunities reported on the cuts to the *Immediate Needs Transportation Program* established in 1994 which afforded four free \$7 Taxi Vouchers to the senior and disabled community. She asked the Commission to write a letter of support for the restoration of these free vouchers to Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (3rd District), and the MTA Westside Central Governance Council, Chair Glen Rosten. She also requested that the Commission on Disabilities send representation to the next MTA Westside Central Governance Council Meeting to be held on August 13, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club, 325 S. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Ms. Taylor further requested that the minutes of the Commission meeting held on June 18, 2008, be revised to include her public comment as she believes that she attended the meeting. Staff agreed to review the transcripts and digital recordings for her comments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1st Vice President Neal reported that she received a visit from her In-Home Support Services (IHSS) social worker. The IHSS worker left a publication titled "Heat Wave Advisory" which she shared with the Commission. She submitted the document for the record.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has invited all Commissioners and a guest to a night of Afro-Latin music under the stars by the Grammy-nominated *Imani Winds*, on Friday, August 1, 2008, at 8:30 p.m. at the John Anson Ford Amphitheater. Two free tickets will be allotted to every Commissioner. Commissioners may contact Commission Staff to RSVP or make arrangements.

STAFF REPORT (Cont.)

- Commission Services, Room B-50, is being renovated and staff is temporarily relocated, and there may be limited access to staff. Commissioners were encouraged to leave messages for staff. Commission staff will return calls as soon as possible.

PRESENTATION BY KEVIN BAYLEY, PROTECTION & ADVOCACY INC., ON ELECTION DAY HOTLINE FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. Kevin Bayley, Attorney for Protection & Advocacy Inc. (PAI), distributed a document titled *Voters with Disabilities* and reported the following:

- The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, sets the rules for voting systems in federal elections, which include making certain that voting systems are accessible for voters with disabilities.
- There are approximately 35 million people with disabilities and only 15 million votes.
- PAI runs an *Election Day* hotline (800-776-5746). Through the hotline, PAI offers assistance to individuals who encounter problems of accessibility at poll sites. The hotline is staffed with attorneys and advocates who specialize in voting procedures and law. Alternate languages are also available.
- PAI communicates accessibility problems that the disability community encounters at poll sites and follows-up with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office to ensure that accessibility problems are remedied and do not reoccur.

Mr. Bayley further added that *PAI* and *Election Protection* have partnered, and will work together for the November 2008 Election. *Election Protection* can be accessed at 1-866 Our-Vote (1-866 687-8683). Written correspondence was submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

1st Vice President Neil reported that the Executive Committee discussed the proposed Commissioners' Retreat. She encourages Commissioners to submit ideas for discussion at the retreat. She further added that no Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for this month (month of July).

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Public Relations Committee

Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM

1st Vice President Neal reported the following visits to today's *Disability Network* radio program:

- Dr. William King, renowned member of the world health treatment team.
- Michael Agrillo, who has a television show in West Hollywood that deals with issues of people living with HIV.

1st Vice President Neal further added that she will be doing a segment on Mr. Agrillo's Television show, and will secure a DVD of the show for the Commission.

Events Committee

Access Awards Luncheon

1st Vice President Neal reported that Commission Staff has mailed the following to Commissioners: 1) *Save the Date* cards, and nomination packets for the 17th Annual Access Awards. She noted that the submission deadline for the nominations is July 30, 2008.

Commission Staff reported that information and application for the 17th Annual Access Awards are available at www.laccod.org.

Bill Tainter Scholarship Program

1st Vice President Neal welcomed and introduced Ramiro Valderrama, 4th District's 2008 Bill Tainter Scholarship recipient.

Ramiro Valderrama thanked the Commission for honoring him and selecting him as this year's scholarship recipient, and touched on his experiences living with a learning disability.

Community Service

There was none.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report

There was none. 1st Vice President Neal, however, added that former ASI Board member, Ms. Teddi Joy-Remhild, (representing the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities) had a meeting with ASI, Inc.

Ms. Remhild attended the meeting with several individuals that were willing to testify on Ms. Remhild's behalf. However, ASI, Inc. only allowed one person to be present during the meeting with Ms. Remhild.

Mr. Daniel Garcia, representing the Community Rehabilitation Services (CRSI) reported that CRSI will feature the 2008 Disability Awareness Day on Saturday, September 20, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at El Centro Maravilla Service Center Parking Lot, located at 4716 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90022. For additional information on this free event, please contact (323) 266-0453.

REPORT OF ANTHONY GORDON, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

There was none.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

- Status of the Martin Luther King, Jr. MultiService Ambulatory Care Center and services provided to Medi-Cal patients.
- Emergency preparedness training from the City Fire Department.
- Discussion on preparing something for Supervisor Burke's retirement.
- Discussion on Commission workshop/retreat tentatively scheduled for September 16 or September 26, 2008. Topics of retreat to include the following: 1) Processes for the Access Awards Luncheon, 2) Bill Tainter Scholarship Program, and 3) Election of Officers.
- Discussion on a recommendation to make a contribution on behalf of the Commission to the Demetria "Dedie" Ward Memorial Fund.
- Discussion on the feasibility of increasing Commissioners' Stipends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Vice President Janet Neal, Commissioners Harley D. Rubenstein and Donna Pomerantz made the following announcements:

- Leslie Drayton will be at the Jazz Bakery located at 4323 Helms Avenue, Culver City, CA, on July 20, 2008, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call the Jazz Bakery at (310) 271-9039.
- Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF) Independent Living Center will have its Transportation Coalition Meeting on August 15, 2008 at CALIF Independent Living Center, 634 South Spring Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90014. For more information please call (213) 627-0477.
- CBS Television Station will host a Special Olympics program on July 20, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. KCAL Television Station will host a Special Olympics program on July 26, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.
- The 2008 annual convention of the American Council of the Blind was held in Louisville, Kentucky on July 5-12, 2008, at the Galt House.
- The Community Rehabilitation Services Incorporated will present its 2008 Disability Awareness Day with event theme of *"Moving Forward Towards a Better Tomorrow,"* on September 20, 2008, at 4716 East Cesar Chavez Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact staff at (323) 266-0453.
- July 18, 2008 will be the 18th Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act.
- Eric Turner with the Disability Right Legal Center, announced their Disability Mentoring Day on October 15, 2008. For more information on how to participate as a mentor or mentee please email John Longoria, or call (213) 736-1408/ (213) 736-8310 for TTY

Commission Staff added that this year marks the 33rd Anniversary of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Welt, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2nd Vice President
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Steve Thompson for Wan-Chun Chang
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

Kecia Weller, President
Mary Chambers
Michael Gureckas

Los Angeles County

Kurt Hagen, OAAC

Access Services, Inc.

Matthew Avancena

Board of Supervisors

Patrick Ogawa, Deputy Executive Officer
Sandra Barbee, Commission Services Chief
Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Guests

Kevin Bayley,
Protection and Advocacy, Inc.
Sandy Eisenberg,
Total Recall Captioning
Sharene Ramirez,
Total Recall Captioning
Donald Brandon,
American Legion Post No. 8
Daniel Garcia,
Community Rehabilitation Services, Inc.

Guests (Cont.)

Ray Louis McKeever,
Southern California Assoc for the Deaf Blind
Jesse Padilla,
East Los Angeles Regional Center
Maria N. Tan, CORE
Joan Taylor,
Señor Disabled Transport Subsidies
Eric Turner,
Disability Rights Legal Center
Ramiro Valderrama,
2008 Bill Tainter Scholarship Recipient
Phyllis Coto
Marvin White